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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/982,856	10/22/2001	Kailash C. Vasudeva	PAT 51400B-2	7754

26123 7590 12/23/2002

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EXAMINER

ANDERSON, GERALD A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3637

DATE MAILED: 12/23/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/982,856

Applicant(s)

VASUDEVA

Examiner

JERRY A ANDERSON

Art Unit

3637

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --****Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 November 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2,3 and 9-13 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                      4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                      5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 8.                      6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Art Unit: 3637

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Election/Restrictions***

Applicant's election with traverse of Figure 24 and 25 in Paper No. 7 is acknowledged. Claims 2, 3, 9-13 have been withdrawn from consideration because the applicant has not included these claims in the group readable on the elected species.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Terms which make the claims indefinite include: "any suitable means".

### ***Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 3637

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1 and 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carlson et al in view of Sheng and Holman. Figure 22 of Carlson shows two holders 170 commonly hinged to a central part, each holder with a unit 172 comprising bins 194. Carlson fails to show bins connected together for movement or holders connected to be positioned together back-to-back and side-to-side. Sheng is cited showing a unit 10 with bins 100-104 connected together by 117 for the purpose moving the bins at the same time. is cited for the purpose of. Holman is cited showing a system of holders 14 and 16 hinged at 20 so that they can be positioned back-to-back and side-to-side. Since the references are from the same field of endeavor the purpose of Sheng and Holman would have been obvious in the pertinent art of Carlson at the time of the invention it would have been obvious for one having an ordinary skill in the art to have modified Carlson with bins connected together for the purpose moving the bins at the same time in view of Sheng and with a system of holders hinged so that they can be positioned back-to-back and side-to-side in view of Holman.

Claims 1 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carlson et al in view of Sheng and Smilie. Figure 22 of Carlson shows two holders 170

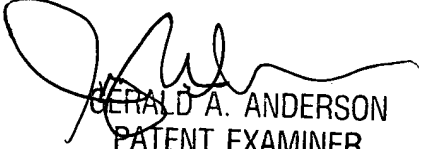
Art Unit: 3637

commonly hinged to a central part, each holder with a unit 172 comprising bins 194. Carlson fails to show bins connected together for movement or holders with a vertical center wall and bins on either side of the center wall. Sheng is cited showing a unit 10 with bins 100-104 connected together by 117 for the purpose moving the bins at the same time. is cited for the purpose of. Smilie is cited showing a system of adjacent bins separated by a holder center wall. Since the references are from the same field of endeavor the purpose of Sheng and Smilie would have been obvious in the pertinent art of Carlson at the time of the invention it would have been obvious for one having an ordinary skill in the art to have modified Carlson with bins connected together for the purpose moving the bins at the same time in view of Sheng and with a holder having a center wall so that units with bins can be arranged adjacent each other in a holder in view of Smilie.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jerry Anderson whose telephone number is 703 038 2202. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on 703 308 24668. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703 305 3597 for regular communications and 703 306 4195 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308 2197.



GERALD A. ANDERSON  
PATENT EXAMINER